

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SITUATION REPORT #05
Water Supply Contingency Plan Implementation-2000
Monday, December 4, 2000 – 1400 Hours

This report contains the latest information. Revisions are in bold. Please refer to previous situation reports for past information. Note: Next situation Report –December 16, 2000.

Situation:

The District has determined that unless levels in the lake increase to near normal level by December there is a high probability that sufficient water supplies from Lake Okeechobee may not be available to meet the needs of the users who depend on the lake as the primary source for water supply.

The District imposed mandatory restrictions on water use for residents in the service areas of the Fort Myers and Lee County water utilities as well as non-agricultural water users around Lake Okeechobee, including all towns directly surrounding the lake.

The restrictions are Phase 1 for the Lake Okeechobee towns and non-agricultural uses and Phase 2 for the Fort Myers and Lee County water utilities. The two west coast utilities are facing increased saltwater levels at their intakes on the Caloosahatchee river.

The District also ordered reductions in the water deliveries that agricultural users receive from Lake Okeechobee. This order imposes rationing for growers in the water-use basins of the Everglades Agricultural Area, the lakeshore perimeter, Indian Prairie (northwest of the lake), and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers.

The District has declared a Water Shortage Warning for users within the South Dade Miami Water Use Basin, The Water Conservation Areas/Everglades National Park Water Use Basin, The Water Conservation Area 1/C-51 Water Use Basin, the Water Conservation Area 2 Water Use Basin, the Water Conservation Area 3 Water Use Basin, the Everglades Agricultural Area Water Use Basin, the Interior Palm Beach County Water use Basin, the M Canal Water Use Basin, The Lakeshore Perimeter Water Use Basin, The St. Lucie River Water Use Basin, and The Caloosahatchee River Water Use Basin.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Short Term:

Below average rain expected over Lake Okeechobee.

Long Term:

Increased chance of below average rainfall during the dry season, especially during the November through March period when 90% of average rainfall is expected based on historical rainfall.

WATER CONDITIONS:

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes:

On average, the lakes in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and Lake Istokpoga are approximately 0.5 to over 3.5 feet below average. Lake Alligator has fallen to a record low stage.

Lake Okeechobee Service Area

Lake Okeechobee is at approximately 11.58 feet NGVD, which is about 3.4 feet below average for this time of year.

Canals in the Everglades Agriculture Area are at normal dry season stages and are being operated to provide the authorized water supply allocation to water users in the basin.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)

Stages in Water Conservation Area 1 are between approximately 0.78 feet below schedule and about 0.41 feet below average for this time of year. Water Conservation Area 2 is near the regulation schedule but is about 1 foot below average for this time of year. Stages in Water Conservation Area 3 are about 0.5 feet below schedule and approximately 0.3 feet below average.

Lower East Coast

Canal water levels along the Lower East Coast are near normal wet season stages and are being operated to provide the authorized level of flood protection and water supply for the area.

OPERATIONAL STATUS:

The District's EOC is activated to a level 2 (partial activation), with the management team expanded

TEAM REPORTS:

DISASTER ANALYSIS AND PLANNING SECTION:

Water Supply Contingency Plan Team:

- **Briefed the Broward County Water Advisory Board on Water Supply conditions and the potential for water use restrictions in Broward County on 11/30/00.**
- **Briefed the Southwest Florida chapter of the American Water Resources Association on Water Supply Conditions and drought management on 12/1/00**

LOGISTICS/FINANCE:

Logistics:

- **Mailed Request for Quotes for pump installation services.**
- **Faxed Letter of Interest to vendors that were mailed the pump installation RFQ notifying them of the upcoming mandatory pre-solicitation meeting.**
- **Drafted Waiver of Competition for Florida Power & Light to provide electric service to the S-351, S-352, and S-354 forward pumping sites.**
- **Conducted mandatory pre-solicitation meeting for pump installation services at S-351, S-352, and S-354. RFQ opens 12/5.**
- **Drafting RFQ for media placement services for water conservation education.**

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT COORDINATION:

- **15,000 acre prescribed burn plan for Buckhead Ridge torpedo grass.**
- **Phone conference with Florida Inland Navigational District to coordinate navigational issues, as needed.**

- **USACE has been receiving plans, specs for forward pump units and concerns/questions are being addressed as they arise.**
- **Forward Pumping Units are in manufacturing at MWI and early completion is anticipated.**
- **Coordination with Water Resources Operations to formulate strategy for muck fires ongoing.**

WATER SUPPLY SECTION:

Water Conservation Team:

- **In order to gage the flows through the numerous outflow facilities around lake Okeechobee, several staff members from Data Management were activated last week to conduct stream gauging measurements. This information will be used this week to determine the volumes of water removed from the Lake under the first week of SSM rationing**
- **A scope of work has been prepared for the services of a media buyer to support the District's water conservation campaign. An RFQ will be sent this week to facilitate selection of media buyer contractor (responses due on the 12th).**
- **Teleconferencing with Water Management Districts on 11/20 to discuss drought issues.**
- **Water conservation literature and a description of the Phase I water restrictions (*Splash*) have been drafted and will go to the service centers. A Phase II description will be distributed to the Lower West Coast service center this week. A press release was prepared and distributed to the press describing the three water restriction orders that became effective on 11/29/00.**

Lake Istokpoga Team:

- **No change in the Lake I. clean-up initiative. However, water users are becoming concerned as canal levels approach cut off levels and are asking what water supplies will be available.**
- **Activated staff to evaluate potential end of dry season stage for Lake Istokpoga. (36.5 ft. NGVD) and to evaluate the volumes of water available from Lake Istokpoga per foot of lake stage below 36.5 ft. Additional work being conducted this week to quantify demands in the Indian Prairie Basin for a hypothetical SSM calculation.**
- **Office of Counsel has been activated to evaluate legal options to implement a SSM for Lake Istokpoga.**

Modified Supply Side Management Implementation Team:

- **Modified SSM rationing was implemented for the Lake Okeechobee Service Center on 11/29/00. Follow-up meetings conducted with the agricultural interests on 11/21/00 and again on 11/28/00.**
- **Meeting held on 11/28/00 to discuss issues related to the Caloosahatchee sub-basin.**
- **Several revisions to the weekly allocation calculations have been identified for resolution this week. Communication with the agriculture industry has been very good.**

Lower West Coast (LWC) Team:

- **An emergency phase II water shortage was declared for the LWC region on 11/29/00. Media coordination was handled through the Ft Myers Service Center.**
- **Compliance training for local law enforcement will occur this week.**
- **The processing of variance requests will be handled out of the Service Center once delegation of authority has been transferred to the Service Center director.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Prepared news release on Water Shortage Orders.**
- **Responding to and coordinating media requests for print and broadcast interviews.**
- **Weekly conference call held with service centers to coordinate requests for information and speaking engagements.**

OFFICE OF COUNSEL:

- **Prepared Water Shortage Orders for Lake Okeechobee Service Area agriculture (Phase III) and non-agriculture (Phase I) – issued November 29, 2000.**
- **Prepared Water Shortage Orders for Lower West Coast (Phase II) restrictions – issued November 29, 2000.**
- **Purchased newspaper publications in affected areas for water shortage orders.**

Signed: _____
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Olivia McLean, Director of
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